

**MINUTES**  
**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**February 9, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Jane B. Allen, Chairman, Ronald Turbin, Richard C. Steege, David A. Rempell, Tom Costley

**Others Present:** Helena Fruscio, Tim Kaiser, Kyle Johnson

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Chairman Allen announced applications are available for the Fund for Williamstown, an endowment grant of Berkshire Taconic Foundation, up to \$25,000 annually. In recognition of the impact of the current economic challenges, the Fund is also accepting applications this year to support initiatives and programs that are critical to sustaining the community in difficult times. For further information applications are available at the Town Hall, Library and at [www.berkshiretaconic.org](http://www.berkshiretaconic.org).

The chairman also announced nominations are being accepted through February 27 for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Unsung Heroine Awards to honor 100 extraordinary women in Massachusetts.

Chairman Allen referred to a notice in the selectmen packets that Cosmo Catalano, selectmen appointee to the Mt. Greylock Advisory Board (the mountain), has been appointed to the council by the state. Therefore, there is now a vacancy on that council that should be filled by a Williamstown resident.

2. **SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** January 26, 2009 – Mr. Costley moved to accept the January 26, 2009 minutes. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **PETITIONER'S REQUEST:** None
4. **LICENSES AND PERMITS:**

- A. **Request from Mezza Catering, Linda Stripp, for a One Day Wine & Malt Beverage License on February 27, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. at the 62 Center, Williams College for Berkshire Creative SPARK Networking Event.** Mr. Rempell moved to approve the One Day Wine & Malt Beverage License to Mezza Catering, Linda Stripp, on February 27, 2009 from 6-8 pm at the Williams College 62 Center. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Helena Fruscio, Berkshire Creative Director of Operations came before the Board to introduce her organization. She said Berkshire Creative is funded by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Berkshire Creative's mission is to stimulate new job growth and economic opportunity in the region by sparking innovative collaborations between artists, designers, cultural institutions and businesses. The purpose of the event is for those entities to network. Ms. Fruscio gave informational handouts with Berkshire Creative's web address to the selectmen.

## **B. Common Victualer License –**

O’Connell’s Convenience Plus #18, 259 Main Street, O’Connell Oil Associates, Inc. – Mr. Rempell moved to approve a common Victualer license for O’Connell’s Convenience Plus #18 at 259 Main Street. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **5. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN’S CONSIDERATION**

**A. Pro-Am Bicycle Road Race –Saturday, May 2, 2009** - Chief Johnson stated that the annual race has had no problems in the past and he has approved the route. Mr. Costley moved to approve the route for the Pro-Am Bicycle Race on Saturday May 2, 2009 as presented. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Board also added that organizers of events shall remove all signs at the end of each event.

**B. Liquor Law Compliance Checks** – Chief Johnson reported that on Thursday, January 29, 2009 the Williamstown Police Department along with volunteers from the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition conducted compliance checks on 22 licensed establishments in Williamstown. In each instance, two female volunteers, 17 and 20 years of age, entered each establishment together and each ordered a bottle of beer. Of the 22 establishments, there were 3 failures; The 6 House Pub, served by a bartender, Thai Garden, served by a wait staff at the bar, and the Red Herring, served by the bartender. Offense reports were included in the selectmen’s packets along with a letter to the town manager listing the offenders and those establishments that passed the compliance checks. According to the Chief’s report, two bartenders said they usually check identifications but didn’t in these instances stating the girls looked older. Ms. Allen said “industry standard is to card anyone who doesn’t have wrinkles”. Chief Johnson said the compliance check wasn’t a secret in that it been reported in the local media and restaurants know the legal drinking age is 21. Mr. Fohlin said he sent a copy of the media notice to all of the license holders as well. Chief Johnson added that they gave excuses but there are no excuses – it was laziness. The Thai Garden and 6 House Pub had violations in 2006 and the Red Herring in 2007. The 19 establishments that passed received correspondence indicating a “job well done” signed by the police chief and Chairman Allen.

Mr. Turbin moved to require that the three offending license holders and offending servers take TIPS training along with any other servers who are not currently TIPS certified by June 1, 2009 and report their compliance to this Board. A letter will be sent to the 3 establishments that future violations of compliance checks could result in suspension of their liquor license. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**C. Water Meter Fee** – in response to a homeowner’s complaint of a water meter charge, Public Works Director Tim Kaiser explained the \$18 meter fee is typical of a single family home and is related to system maintenance, meter size and water demand. Other buildings with far more need for water on demand, such as those with sprinkler systems, pay much more. He invited anyone who wishes further discussion to contact him at the Public Works department, and that a report on the

Town's rates is also available for review at the Town Hall.

- D. Accept Resignation of Library Trustee Karen Lartin** – Ms. Lartin, who is moving out of state, gave her resignation from the Library Trustees as of February 28. Mr. Costley moved to accept Ms. Lartin's resignation. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Library Trustees will join Selectmen at their February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to appoint a temporary replacement to serve until the May 2009 local election.
  - E. Library Trustee Vacancy to be placed on May 2009 Election Ballot** – Mr. Steege to instruct the Town Clerk to place the Library Trustee vacancy on the May 2009 Election Ballot. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
  - F. Blair Lot** – Mr. Costley moved to create a subcommittee and designate Mr. Turbin and Mr. Steege to serve on that committee to negotiate a price with the state for the Blair Lot property. Once this information is obtained, the sale will be decided at Town Meeting. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 6. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** See Attached.
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Turbin attended the Berkshire MPO meeting last week and said that organization is looking for ready to go highway projects.
- Mr. Steege attended a COOL Committee meeting last week and will report on it at the next selectmen meeting.
- 8. ADJOURN:** Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, February 23, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Turbin, Secretary

RT/kp